

S E C R E T

OSA-2690-69

25 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Aero Medical Staff (AMS) Personnel Responsibilities

The AMS Aerospace Physiologist and Evasion and Survival Superintendent's responsibilities are defined in the following paragraphs and the rationale by which these individuals are physically located in the Headquarters.

1. Aerospace Physiologist Duties:

a. Initiates and monitors research and development programs in the life sciences area as applicable to high performance manned aircraft.

b. Performs necessary research and development of life support equipment, ejection seats, parachutes, pressure suits and oxygen equipment.

c. Contracts for the development of personal equipment required to fulfill the mission, and monitors and closely coordinates industrial contractor efforts in research and development of life support equipment.

d. Directs and monitors field level life support programs with respect to:

(1) Procedures employed for supporting aircrews and their personal protective and survival equipment.

(2) Equipment utilization, test, and maintenance.

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(3) Providing specifications for the acquisition of new, improved, modified, or replacement items.

(4) Training of aircrews in aviation physiology, personal equipment, and survival.

e. Participates in the indoctrination and training programs of the field level life-support sections.

f. Participates in accident investigations as required.

g. Supplements field life-support personnel during deployments, if required.

h. Monitors activities of the Air Force and other services in the field of personal equipment, ejection seats, survival equipment, and parachutes.

i. Personally participates in environmental testing of experimental life-support equipment.

j. Serves as contract technical monitor for all life-support contracts, coordinating closely with CMD/Compt/OSA, D/M/OSA [redacted]

k. Writes technical and status report on all the above.

1. Participates in low-pressure chamber flights at Detachment G altitude chamber. This requirement seldom will exceed three (3) flights per month occurring periodically, all of which can be accomplished in a two-day period. It is important to note that a great deal of money will be saved by conducting pressure suit flights at the Detachment [redacted]

2. Evasion and Survival Superintendent:

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a. Plans and organizes survival activities: Develops and improves procedures for instruction of aircrews in survival techniques.

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c. Inspects and evaluates survival and rescue programs to determine compliance with directives and policies. Examines rescue and survival equipment to determine adequacy and readiness for use in environments such as arctic, desert, mountain, tropical and water areas. Evaluates rescue-recovery techniques employed by rescue/recovery personnel. Maintains a current library on worldwide basis to have appropriate material where required.

d. Tests and evaluates parachutes and aerial recovery equipment techniques.

e. Conducts liaison with military and Agency personnel concerning survival, evasion, escape, and recovery.

f. Designs and develops survival equipment and techniques in conjunction with appropriate Agency organization.

g. Coordinates all plans for covert activity with counterintelligence staff.

h. Parachutes frequently and regularly to maintain proficiency. Conducts test jumps on Life-Support Equipment to determine its serviceability and acceptability for this program.

3. Prior to the loss of the "OXCART" Program and the series of personnel reductions in OSA, [redacted]

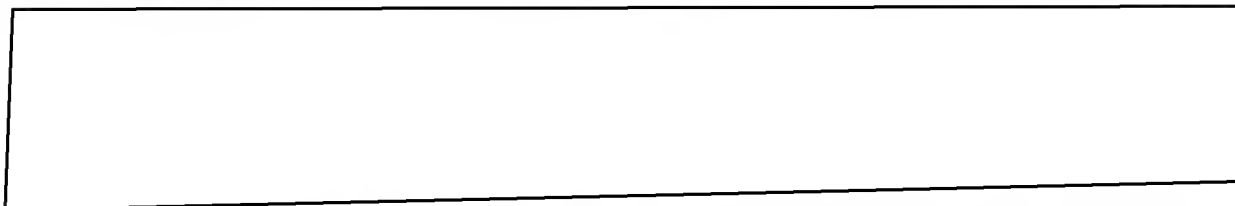
[redacted] Their separation of duties was fairly clearcut. With the reductions, however, the Headquarters' group has, of necessity, taken over many of the functions previously carried out by the Detachments. Their most vital function remains, however, in conducting liaison with the Surgeon General's Office in Washington, D. C. [redacted] and the contractors (i.e., David Clark Company [redacted] located on the East Coast. Frequent visits to these companies are required in order to keep abreast of overhaul responsibilities as well as to evaluate

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engineering studies and proposals having to do with this exotic Life Support Equipment. It would be more costly and less efficient to attempt this effort from the field.



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5. To place a Physiological Training Office at Detachment G would appear to be a waste of resources inasmuch as the requirement only exists sporadically for training in the physiological aspects of high-altitude flight. The majority of Life-Support functions in the field can be accomplished by the Senior Master Sergeant presently assigned. If a field officer with such a background were deemed necessary, it would seem reasonable to train one of the assigned pilots in operations and allow him to function in a dual capacity. Such an approach has been followed for years in ADC where the full-time requirement for a Physiological Training Officer does not exist either.



Chief, Aero Medical Staff
Office of Special Activities

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